

Message Text

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FOR AMB PAUL C. WARNKE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 18 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. WASHINGTON POST STAFF WRITER MURREY MARDER SAID PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO INVITE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS INFLUENTIAL ON NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL TO WHITE HOUSE MEETING MAY 18 "INEVITABLY AROUSED SPECULATION THAT TODAY'S VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING IN GENEVA MIGHT BE TIMED TO CHANGE IN U.S. OR SOVIET BARGAINING POSITION." MARDER SAID "THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL INDICATION, HOWEVER, OF ANY MODIFICATION IN EITHER SIDE'S POSITION."

2. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT DAVID K. SHIPLER, IN DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW, REPORTED THAT BREZHNEV SAID NEW TREATY LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS WOULD HELP IMPROVE CLIMATE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION THAT DEADLOCK HAD BEEN BROKEN. SOVIET LEADER SAID TREATY LIMITING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SHOULD BE BASED ON 1974 VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD. SOVIET LEADER ALSO SAID USSR WANTED TO DISCUSS
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"LIQUIDATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN AND WITHDRAWAL FROM MEDITERRANEAN SEA OF SHIPS CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

3. IN OP-ED ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST, VICTOR ZORZA SAID "PERHAPS MOST IMAGINATIVE OF ALL PROPOSALS PUT TO RUSSIANS BY PRESIDENT CARTER IS THAT INDIAN OCEAN BE 'COMPLETELY

DEMILITARIZED." ZORZA SAID AGREEMENT COULD PROVIDE MODEL FOR OTHER SUCH AGREEMENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD. "KREMLIN'S RESPONSE TO CARTER'S PROPOSAL HAS BEEN FAR FROM ENTHUSIASTIC BUT AT LEAST MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON HAVE AGREED TO SET UP JOINT WORKING GROUP TO LOOK INTO ISSUES IT RAISES," ZORZA SAID.

4. REPORTING FROM GENEVA, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CORRESPONDENT DAVID K. WILLIS SAID BOTH SIDES IN GENEVA TALKS "HOLD SIZABLE BARGAINING WEAPONS IN RESERVE. MOSCOW HAS THREATENED TO REVERSE ITS VLADIVOSTOK CONCESSION AND INSIST THAT U.S. WEAPONS BASED IN EUROPE BE INCLUDED IN SALT II (PROSPECT THAT ALARMS WESTERN EUROPE). AND U.S. HAS ITS SUPERIOR ABILITY TO DEVELOP NEW AND MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FASTER THAN SOVIETS (SUCH AS CRUISE). IT HOLDS OUT 'CARROT' THAT IF SOVIETS AGREE TO DISCUSS ITS COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE SOON, MR. CARTER MIGHT STOP PRODUCTION OF MASSIVE B-1 BOMBER, MX MOBILE MISSILE AND NEW IMPROVED MIZA WARHEAD FOR U.S. ICBMS."

5. FROM MOSCOW, PETER OSNOS OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT "WHATEVER COMES OUT OF THIS WEEK'S HIGH-LEVEL U.S.-SOVIET TALKS IN GENEVA -- AND PORTENTS ARE NOT GOOD -- IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DISPEL ANIMOSITY TOWARD U.S. THAT HAS DOMINATED KREMLIN ATTITUDES IN EARLY MONTHS OF CARTER ERA."

6. WALL STREET JOURNAL STAFF REPORTER ROBERT KEATLEY, IN DISPATCH FROM GENEVA, SAID "U.S. OFFICIALS SEEM READY TO UNCLASSIFIED

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BACK AWAY FROM THEIR CALL FOR MAJOR WEAPONS REDUCTIONS AS STALLED STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WITH SOVIET UNION RESUME HERE TODAY. SAYING U.S. OFFICIALS SEEM READY TO DISCUSS "RELATIVELY MINOR CHANGES TO SALT TREATY OUTLINE AGREED TO AT VLADIVOSTOK," KEATLEY SAID THIS SUGGESTS SECOND SALT AGREEMENT -- IF THERE IS ONE -- WILL BE NEARER MORE MODEST PROPOSALS OF BREZHNEV "THAN 'DRAMATIC' PROGRAM FOR SWEEPING REDUCTIONS FORWARDED BY PRESIDENT CARTER."

KEATLEY QUOTED AMBASSADOR WARNKE AS SAYING "WE ARE ANXIOUS TO MOVE FASTER THAN THEY ARE READY TO MOVE." THIS DOES NOT MEAN, KEATLEY CONTINUED, THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS ABANDONING CONCEPT OF SIGNIFICANT ARMS REDUCTION, BUT "IT DOES MEAN U.S. COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL IS CONSIDERED LIKELY OUTLINE FOR THIRD SALT TREATY, TO BE NEGOTIATED ONCE MORE MODEST SECOND ONE IS CONCLUDED."

HE SAID AMBASSADOR WARNKE, IN INTERVIEW, CAUTIONED THAT ACTUAL AGREEMENT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY IN THIS WEEK'S VANCE-

GROMYKO TALKS. "WHAT IS HOPED FOR IS SOVIET INDICATION OF HOW THEY ARE WILLING TO PROCEED, NOW THAT EXISTING U.S. PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN REJECTED, SO THAT SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN," KEATLEY STATED. "THESE NEGOTIATIONS," HE SAID, "WOULD INVOLVE MR. WARNKE AND HIS RUSSIAN COUNTERPART, AND WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE ANOTHER TRIP TO MOSCOW BY SECRETARY VANCE ONCE DETAILED PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE."

JOURNAL REPORTER SAID AMBASSADOR WARNKE "NOW SAYS U.S. PROBABLY UNDERESTIMATED IMPORTANCE OF VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT TO SOVIETS. IN THEIR VIEW, HE SUGGESTS, THEY MADE CONCESSIONS WHEN REACHING THOSE TERMS AND AREN'T READY TO ABANDON THEM FOR EVEN MORE SWEEPING CONTROLS. HE SUGGESTS LOGICAL STEP WOULD BE TO COMPLETE SALT TWO ALONG VLADIVOSTOK TERMS, WITH SOME ADDITIONS, AND THEN MOVE PROMPTLY TO DISCUSS MORE RADICAL AMERICAN PLAN AS FOLLOW-UP."

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7. HENRY KAMM OF NEW YORK TIMES, REPORTING FROM TOKYO, SAID SOSUKE UNO, CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN'S ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, SUGGESTED THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE DEALING WITH JAPAN IN BAD FAITH IN DISPUTE OVER NUCLEAR REPROCESSING.

8. WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTED THAT SENATE, IN "SHARP CONTRAST WITH OLD HAWK-VS-DOVE DEBATES OF PRIOR YEARS, EASILY PASSED 35.97 BILLION DOLLAR WEAPONS BILL." VOTE WAS 90 TO THREE. SENATE BILL, BASICALLY SIMILAR TO HOUSE MEASURE, AUTHORIZES SPENDING OF 118.6 MILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN CARTER ADMINISTRATION REQUESTED FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR. JOURNAL SAID "GROWING ACCEPTANCE ON CAPITOL HILL OF INCREASING SOVIET MILITARY THREAT RESULTED IN LITTLE REAL DEBATE ON BIG WEAPONS BILL." MCGOVERN, ABOUREZK AND HATFIELD VOTED AGAINST SENATE BILL. JOURNAL ALSO REPORTED THAT TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PENTAGON'S MAJOR WEAPON PROJECTS CLIMBED 3.35 BILLION DOLLARS, OR 1.7 PERCENT, TO 200.94 BILLION DOLLARS IN FIRST QUARTER. INCLUDED IN RISE WAS B-1 BOMBER COST ESCALATION. CHRISTOPHER

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